



## UNC CFAR Social and Behavioral Science Research Core SABI Database

**INSTRUMENT TITLE:** The Lethality Screen

**SOURCE ARTICLE:** Messing, J. T., Campbell, J., Sullivan Wilson, J., Brown, S., & Patchell, B. (2016). The lethality screen: the predictive validity of an intimate partner violence risk assessment for use by first responders. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 32(2), 205-226.

**POPULATION:** Women

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:** Yes or No

**SCORING:** Score of YES (1) and score of NO (0). A score of greater than 4 indicates high danger. If the woman answers YES to any of the first three questions, she is automatically classified as “high danger.” If the woman responds no to the first three questions, but responds “yes” to four or more of the additional 8 questions, she is also screened in as “high danger.”

### **SURVEY ITEMS:**

1. *Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?*
2. *Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?*
3. *Do you think he/she might try to kill you?*
4. *Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?*
5. *Has he/she ever tried to choke you?*
6. *Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?*
7. *Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?*
8. *Is he/she unemployed?*
9. *Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?*
10. *Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?*

### **TERMS OF USE:**

Individuals may use this information for research or educational purposes only and may not use this information for commercial purposes. When using this instrument, please cite:

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11. *Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?*

**RELIABILITY INFORMATION:** None

**VALIDITY INFORMATION:** The following methods were used to assess validity:

Convergent validity

- LS and Danger Assessment

Criterion-related validity:

- Predictive validity: LS and prediction that partner will physically abuse or hurt them within the next year
  - LS and predicting near fatal violence at follow-up
  - LS and predicting severe violence
  - LS and predicting intimate partner violence

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